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Dear Parents and Carers

RE: Lunchtimes

Happy New Year everyone, I hope you all had a lovely Christmas holiday.

As our primary concern is the happiness and wellbeing of the children at Wycliffe I have been concerned and at times frustrated with some of the problems that have been occurring at lunchtimes lately. After speaking to the children, observing lunchtimes at different times over a 3 week period and speaking to parents it became clear that changes needed to be made.

I am pleased that I am able to write to you to explain the changes we have made to our lunchtime arrangements that came into effect today, they are as follows:

- We have appointed Mr Hussain our Learning Mentor to be the 'Manager of Play' throughout school, he is responsible for organising play activities and directing lunchtime supervisors to lead specific games so the children will have opportunities to be engaged in purposeful play rather than having to 'find things to do' which can be tricky to do every day by oneself.
- We have allocated an additional 4 teaching assistants to every lunchtime duty, their role will be to act as a 'key helper'. One of the problems the children kept telling me was that they felt nobody listened to them or helped them if they had a problem, they also struggled to identify the person to whom they had spoken to. Therefore, I thought it would be helpful to have 'key helpers' whom the children were familiar with who could help the children resolve issues and listen to their worries/concerns/thoughts.
- We have added more indoor lunchtime clubs to give the children a range of options during the week, these will be posted in their classrooms and the younger children, e.g. Reception class will be reminded of the activities available to them each lunchtime.
- The Key Stage 2 children (Years 3 to Years 6) mentioned that they didn't feel the rota for going in to dinners was very fair and should alternate so that every class had a week where they went into dinners first, second, third etc. I thought this was an excellent suggestion and I have personally implemented this and Y6 who went into dinners last every day since September, will now go into dinner first as from today and all next week, and the following week will go in second, then third etc.
- 14 children applied from Y4 and Y5 to be trained as Playground Buddies and their formal Playground Pals Training starts next week and will be completed by the end of January. The playground buddies will work on a rota basis in the Reception / Key Stage 1 playground at lunchtime promoting play, leading games etc., under the direction of Ms Hughes.

I have also listed below the different clubs available each lunchtime for your information and so you can discuss these with your children.

DAY	KEY STAGE 2 TIMES: 12.15 – 12.45			KEY STAGE 1 TIMES: 12.45 – 13.15		
	Club	Year group	Location	Club	Year group	Location
Mon	ICT Maths games using iPads Hula Hooping Glee Chill Out Spanish Homework Fisical - Football	Y3 + Y4 Y5 + Y6 All KS2 All KS2 Y3 All KS2 All KS2 Y2 - Elm	ICT Suite Y6 classroom KS2 Hall Y5 classroom Y3 classroom Y6 shared area KS1 shared area Gym	Craft/drawing Dance/singing Spanish Construction Chill Out Homework Fisical - Football	Reception Y1 + Y2 Y1 + Y2 Y1 + Y2 All Y1 Y1 + Y2 Y2 - Chestnut	Reception classroom KS2 Hall Y6 shared area KS1 Hall Y1 Cedar classroom KS1 shared area Gym
Tues	ICT Maths games using iPads Hula Hooping Glee Fisical - Football	Y5 + Y6 Y3 + Y4 All KS2 All KS2 Y3 - Larch	ICT Suite Y6 classroom KS2 Hall Y5 classroom Gym	Board games Dance/singing Construction Chill Out Fisical - Football	Reception Y1 + Y2 Y1 + Y2 All Y2 Football Team	Reception classroom KS2 Hall KS1 Hall Y2 Elm classroom Gym
Wed	ICT Glee Chill Out Chill Out Chill Out Fisical - Football	Y5 + Y6 All KS2 Y4 Y5 Y3 Sycamore Y4 - Willow	ICT Suite KS2 Hall Y4 classroom Y5 classroom Y3 classroom Gym	Craft/drawing Chill Out Hula Hooping Chill Out Fisical - Football	Reception All Y1 Y1 + Y2 All Y2 Y3 - Sycamore	Reception classroom Y1 Beech classroom KS2 Hall Y1 Hall Gym
Thurs	ICT Maths games using iPads Glee Homework Fisical - Football	Y3 + Y4 Y5 + Y6 All KS2 KS1/KS2 Y5 - Ash	ICT Suite Y6 classroom KS2 Hall Y6 shared area Gym	Hula Hooping Construction Chill Out Homework Fisical - Football	Rec, Y1 + Y2 Y1 + Y2 Y1 + Y2 Y1 + Y2 Y1 - Cedar	KS2 Hall KS1 Hall Y2 Chestnut classroom Y6 shared area Gym
Fri	Chill Out Film Club Film Club Fisical - Football	Y6 All Y3 Y4 + Y5 Y6 - Yew	Y6 classroom Y3 Sycamore Y4 classroom Gym	Craft/drawing Dance/singing Construction Film Club Fisical - Football	Reception Y1 + Y2 Y1 + Y2 Y1 + Y2 Y1 - Beech	Reception classroom KS2 Hall KS1 Hall Y2 Elm classroom Gym

I hope the above reassures you that we take the well-being of your children seriously and that the new arrangements will improve the children's enjoyment and experience at lunchtime.

Don't forget **weekly** parent 'informal drop in sessions' resume next Tuesday at 3.15pm to 3.45pm, where friends and family are welcome to visit school and look at the children's work with their child. Please note, these are not formal parent teacher consultations but an opportunity for your child to share with you the work they have been doing and for you to come into school and see the lovely displays etc., in our school community. You are very welcome to make an appointment to see a member of staff if you wish to discuss something of importance at any time.

Please don't hesitate to contact me if you wish to discuss any of the above.

Yours faithfully

Miss RJ Newman
Headteacher

Headteacher: Miss RJ Newman
Working Together for Excellence